

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for registering a ~~Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)~~ wireless local area network as a ~~cellular~~ wireless network routing area, comprising the steps of:

determining a location of a service request from a user within a ~~cellular~~ wireless network;

determining whether the location is in or near a ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network access point;

if at or near the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network access point, maintaining packet data protocol (~~PDP~~) context while servicing the request using the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network such that interworking between the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network and the ~~cellular~~ wireless network is provided.

2. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining packet data protocol (~~PDP~~) context while servicing the request using the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network includes restricting radio signaling between a user and the ~~cellular~~ wireless network while using the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network.

3. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a request for service for a routing area in a ~~cellular~~ wireless network.

4. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network is recognized as a routing area of the ~~cellular~~ wireless network.

5. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of setting a periodic routing area update timer value while in a ~~WLAN~~ wireless

local area network coverage area to reduce signaling while a user is in the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network area.

6. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing packet switched signaling connection through the ~~PDP~~ packet data protocol context when ~~existing~~ exiting the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network.

7. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of controlling the loading of ~~cellular~~ wireless cells by shifting user traffic service to ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area networks.

8. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the interworking between the ~~cellular~~ wireless network and the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network is provided by:

uniquely identifying the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network as a routing area of the ~~cellular~~ wireless network; and

once identified, setting a routing area update timer to reduce a number of routing area updates to the ~~cellular~~ wireless network.

9. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining the PDP context includes maintaining the ~~PDP~~ packet data protocol context to reduce handoff delay while re-entering the ~~UMTS~~ wireless network.

10. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling ~~cellular~~ wireless service providers to control the loading of cells by shifting users to ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area networks by changing routing area identifiers of the users to that of a ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network coverage area.

11. (currently amended) A system for employing a ~~Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN)~~ wireless local area network as a ~~cellular~~ wireless network routing area, comprising:

a ~~cellular~~ wireless network, which is capable of determining a location where a

service request is made;

the ~~cellular~~ wireless network comprising a packet-based support node, which determines if the request can be serviced through a ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network;

means for maintaining packet data protocol (~~PDP~~) context while servicing the request using the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network to provide smooth handoff between the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network and the ~~cellular~~ wireless network.

12. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the means of maintaining packet data protocol (~~PDP~~) context includes a preservation function provided in a mobile station.

13. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, further comprising a unique routing area identifier, which identifies the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network k in the ~~cellular~~ wireless network.

14. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, further comprising a wireless local area network coverage area to reduce signaling while a user is in the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network area.

15. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, further comprising an interworking function for establishing and maintaining user services between the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network and the ~~cellular~~ wireless network.

16. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the ~~cellular~~ wireless network includes a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (~~UMTS~~).

17. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the means for maintaining packet data protocol (~~PDP~~) context further comprises a ~~Radio Access Bearer (RAB)~~ radio access bearer setup procedure for establishing interworking between the ~~cellular~~ wireless network and the ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network.

18. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the cellular network learns if a user is in a ~~WLAN~~ wireless local area network coverage area via a routing area identifier (~~RAI~~) update message.